

REMARKS

Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Heitbrink for considering the above amendments to the claims, and indicating during an interview on January 16, 2004 that the amended claims now appear to distinguish over the art of record.

- Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended.

- Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0026817 (Shida et al.). Claims 3, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shida et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,783,233 (Takahashi). The Office Action relies upon the coolant grooves in Shida et al. for allegedly disclosing the at least one groove conducting a tempering medium for tempering of modules included in the mould, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 8.

Amended independent claims 1 and 8 now more clearly define the groove as extending between two points in an available volume of the mould along a path having a shape designed according to a shape of the cavity and according to locations of one or more components for performing integrated functions in order to increase and decrease a rate of heat transfer from the mould to the tempering medium at different positions along the length of the groove. These features are described in the specification at page 7, lines 14-21, and provide significant advantages over a system such as disclosed in Shida et al., which does not provide for or suggest any variation in the coolant grooves that would allow for different amounts of heat transfer from the mould along the groove.

As discussed at page 8, line 35 - page 9, line 13, some of the advantages achieved by the novel combinations of features now clearly set forth in independent claims 1, 8 and 21 include reduced warpage of the mould, improved finish of the moulded components, and higher capacity as a result of faster tempering of the mould.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 1-20, are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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